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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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- 25X1X 1. [redacted] at a special briefing by representatives of the Press Division of the SMA, the chief editors of the SED party newspapers were told that the present political and economic situation in Berlin permits no hope for an improvement in the supply situation during the coming winter. On the contrary, more acute shortages of essential items such as food, coal, gas, and electricity are anticipated. It was stated that this information was to be regarded as strictly confidential and that it had only been released in order to prevent the Communist press from arousing unwarranted expectations on the part of the Berlin population.
2. Persons attending the meeting interpreted these depressing announcements to mean that the Russians are no longer willing to provide Berlin, particularly the western sectors, with goods which will be needed during the winter. According to a statement made by Walter Ulbricht, leading members of the SED feel that this, together with certain recent developments in the western zones, is a definite indication that the division of Germany is practically an accomplished fact; Berlin will remain an international city, but each power will attend solely to the administration and supply of its own sector. Ulbricht expressed the opinion that, under these circumstances, it may become necessary for all important SED newspapermen to establish residence in the Russian sector.
3. The reports from the Russian Zone which have been appearing repeatedly in the Tagesspiegel have caused members of the SED Executive Committee some concern and are apparently the subject of an MVD investigation. The sources of these reports, of course, are suspected to be members of SPD, CDU, and LDP circles.
4. The activities of those Social Democratic city councillors still holding office in Berlin may be subjected to a close check by the Russians, who are expected to demand some discharges. Among those named in this connection were Klingelhöfer and Füllsack, against whom a public attack, previously approved by the SMA, has been launched.

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5. A conference of the State Executive Committees and the Party Executive Committee took place on [redacted] at the Central Headquarters of the SED. During the discussions it developed that a general political listlessness and lack of self-criticism has been observed in party circles; public meetings and assemblies have had extremely poor attendance. A wave of dissension has arisen in the party which has penetrated all levels. The principal demands of the dissenting group are a more rapid and thorough agricultural reform; the relinquishment of the bloc policy in favor of definite action against the "bourgeois parties"; and the forging of closer links between the Russian Zone and the countries of eastern Europe, accompanied by the surrender of hopes for German unity. It was agreed that the danger of demoralization within the party must be combatted by every means possible. In Thuringia and Saxony high functionaries attend small gatherings of only eight or ten persons, simply in order to maintain contact with the masses.

6. At a press conference Walter Ulbricht stated that the most important question of the moment for the SED is that of the Ruhr. It is closely connected with the efforts to achieve the unity of Germany, which must continue, even if it becomes necessary to resort to strikes and passive resistance in order to attain the desired goal. These methods will only be employed if the need should become extreme, but it must be made clear to those concerned that they are available.

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